

WEATHER OF THE MONTH.

WEATHER OF NORTH AMERICA AND ADJACENT OCEANS.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

By ALFRED J. HENRY, Meteorologist.

Pressure at the two Pacific stations, Midway and Honolulu, also in the Aleutian regions and at Nome, Alaska, was for the most part below normal. On the south coast of Alaska and to a less extent in the interior, pressure was above normal practically the entire month after about the 7th. Such a pressure distribution would seem to indicate that cyclonic depressions which normally develop in the Gulf of Alaska and move thence to the southeast moved to the northeast as disturbances of little intensity.

The outstanding feature of cyclonic distribution in the United States was the failure of such storms to move inland from the Pacific and thence southeastward over the Plateau and Rocky Mountain regions. Coupled with that failure, however, there was a marked tendency toward the development of intense cyclones over northeastern United States.

In general, the weather in the United States and Canada was appropriate to a winter month except that in two widely separate regions extreme conditions prevailed, a result directly traceable to the movement of cyclones as indicated in the previous paragraph. In Pacific Coast States there was an absence of precipitation which may seriously affect economic conditions in those States should the shortage of precipitation continue during March. In northeastern Atlantic Coast States, including the Canadian Maritime Provinces and eastern Quebec, stormy weather with heavy snow prevailed during almost 50 per cent of the time. In New England and New York heavy snow seriously interfered with transportation problems, and the month may be classed as of the "old fashioned winter" type.¹

While there were no wide-spread and severe cold waves, freezing temperatures overspread Southeastern States, including Florida, toward the end of the month. The month as a whole was relatively cold east of the Mississippi and warm west of it.

NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN.

By F. G. TINGLEY.

The month opened with a pronounced fall in pressure over the region adjacent to the Aleutian Islands where previously, during the middle and last decades of January, it had been abnormally high. During the entire month there was rather marked atmospheric activity over the Pacific as compared with the preceding months of December and January, in which conditions were unusually quiet for the winter season.

The depression which overspread the region between the Aleutians and Hawaiian Islands during the early days of the month caused strong westerly winds and gales over the northern steamer routes from midocean westward to the Japanese Islands.

Mr. C. R. Jowsey, second officer of the British S. S. *Tahchee*, Capt. D. M. Mackenzie, from San Pedro for Yokohama, states that from longitude 141° W., to the Japanese coast there was a continuation of westerly winds

from force 6 to 10, with fierce squalls after passing the 180th meridian. Short intervals of light airs and calms, from 4 to 8 hours in duration, were experienced between blows, with bright, clear weather throughout day and night, except on approaching the coast, when cloudy and squally weather prevailed.

The principal disturbance of the month appears to have been that of the 9th-13th. Between those dates vessels near the 180th meridian experienced winds reaching the force of a whole gale. Mr. I. N. Barr, observer on the British S. S. *Ixion*, Capt. J. Inkster, from Yokohama for Victoria, states that at 2 a. m. on the 11th, after a vivid display of lightning in various quarters, a sudden gale from the northwest struck the ship. The wind attained its greatest violence about noon of the 12th, the vessel then being hove to in latitude 38° 28' N., longitude 151° 21' E. The gale was accompanied by terrific squalls and a very high sea, while a high swell from the northeast was continually running. Similar conditions were experienced on the 18th, when the *Ixion* was in latitude 49° 01' N., longitude 176° 17' W.

It is interesting to note that while there was greater atmospheric activity over the North Pacific Ocean in February than in either December or January the reverse was true of the North Atlantic Ocean, where, after two months of stormy weather, conditions moderated somewhat, as appears from the accompanying review of conditions over that ocean.

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN.

By F. A. YOUNG.

The average pressure for the month was slightly above the normal at land stations on the coasts of Newfoundland and Canada, while it was somewhat lower than usual on the coast of the United States and also in the West Indies and the Bermudas. In the neighborhood of the Orkney Islands the pressure was practically normal, while on the south coast of Ireland, in the English Channel, and in the Azores it was considerably above.

According to reports received, the number of days on which gales were observed over the steamer lanes was slightly less than usual, as they were not reported on more than five days in any one 5-degree square. In the square that includes Bermuda they occurred on four days, which is slightly above the normal for that locality.

Fog was apparently less prevalent than usual during the month over the entire ocean, and it was reported on only three days on the Banks of Newfoundland and adjoining region.

On February 1 and 2 moderate to strong southerly and southwesterly gales prevailed over the middle and eastern sections of the steamer lanes. On the former date the pressure was abnormally high on the American coast north of New York, as a number of stations reported barometric readings of 31 inches or over. On the 3d and 4th heavy weather continued in mid-ocean, and on the 4th two vessels between the 35th and 46th parallels and the 68th meridian and the American coast encountered strong easterly gales accompanied by high barometric

¹ See p. 78 above.